

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17 have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits. Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 have been amended. No claims are being added. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 4-7, 11-14 and 18-20 will be pending in the present Application upon entry of this amendment.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present Application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

This amendment is being submitted after the Decision on Appeal rendered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on December 14, 2007 in which the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversed the rejection of dependent Claims 4, 11, 18 and affirmed the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19 and 20. While Applicants have not yet received an Office communication from the Examiner as set forth in M.P.E.P § 1214.06(I)(B), Applicants have elected to voluntarily file such an amendment in view of the improper Notification of Abandonment that was mailed February 27, 2008 and in an effort to advance the prosecution of the present Application.

In this amendment, Applicants have rewritten into independent form the claims that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has indicated include allowable subject matter. Specifically, Applicants have rewritten Claims 4, 11 and 18 into independent form. Applicants have also amended the dependency of Claims 5, 12 and 19 to depend from one of the independent claims.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-1722. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 18-1722. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 18-1722.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present Application. Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned attorney or agent at the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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